



Toxics Release Inventory Update



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thresholds for PBTs will assure that we get reporting on almost all releases of these chemicals. These PBT chemicals are of particular concern not only because they are toxic but also because they remain in the environment for long periods of time, are not readily destroyed and build up or accumulate in body tissue. Relatively small releases of PBT chemicals can pose human and environmental health threats. These chemicals warrant recognition by communities as potential health threats and as such need to be captured by the TRI Right-to-Know Program.

The existing reporting thresholds do not adequately insure that the public has access to information about the quantities of these PBT chemicals which enter their communities from local industrial facilities. Facilities that manufacture, process and/or use PBT chemicals are not reporting many of the releases and other waste management associated with these chemicals. By lowering the existing thresholds EPA believes the public will have access to basic environmental data about these chemicals. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on March 8, 1999. The majority of comments received during the 90-day comment period supported the rule. Those comments are being reviewed and the final rule is expected by the end of the 1999. For more information, contact **Dan Bushman, (202) 260-3882**.

Proposed Rule for TRI Reporting of Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic Chemicals

The proposed rule was published in January 1999. This proposed rule is intended to lower the TRI reporting thresholds for PBT chemicals and to add certain other PBT chemicals to the section 313 list of toxic chemicals. Currently, facilities that manufacture or process less than 25,000 pounds or otherwise use less than 10,000 pounds of a listed chemical in a given year do not need to report their chemical releases under TRI. Lowering these

Lower Threshold Proposed for Lead TRI Reporting

In a proposed rule published on August 3, 1999, EPA is proposing to lower the threshold for reporting of lead releases to TRI. Lead remains in the environment for long periods of time and is toxic to humans, especially to children. Children and developing fetuses are known to absorb lead more readily than adults, and once in the body, lead is distributed to the blood, bone, and soft tissue. Children exposed to lead can suffer from damage to the brain and central nervous system, slow growth, hyperactivity, and behavior and learning problems.

Adults exposed to lead can suffer difficulties during pregnancy, high blood pressure, nervous disorders, and memory concentration problems.

Currently, facilities are not required to report their lead and lead compound releases to the air, water, and land unless they manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds annually or use more than 10,000 pounds annually. These high thresholds severely limit the reporting of lead and lead compounds. Under the proposed rule the reporting thresholds would be lowered to 10 pounds per facility per year and substantially increase the amount of information made available to the public through TRI by about 13 percent or about 15,000 reports.

The proposed rule is undergoing a 45-day comment period. For more information, contact **Dan Bushman, (202) 260-3882**.

1997 Data Release Report

EPA issued its report on the 1997 TRI data in early May. The 1997 TRI Public Data Release contains four chapters and focuses on the TRI data at the national level. It summarizes data collected for calendar year 1997. For comparison purposes, this report also provides basic data for the preceding year (1996), for the new baseline year (1995) for the period since the PPA mandated collection of waste management data (1991), and for the original baseline year (1988). Unlike last year, this year's data release does not contain industry-specific chapters. The industry-specific chapters will be revised in the future. This report was released in May 1999. For more information, contact **Michelle Price, (202) 260-3372**.

Toxic Release Inventory Update

Thank you for your articles for this edition of Toxic Release Inventory Update. This will be a quarterly update it will be available on the the TRI Homepage at:

<http://www.epa.gov.opptintr/tri>.

Articles should be submitted to:

Cassandra Vail for headquarters, regional and state articles and information. Cassandra can be reached at (202) 260-0675 or vail.cassandra@epa.gov.

Angela Price for headquarters articles and information. Angela can be reached at (202) 260-3949 or price.angela@epa.gov.

All address corrections should be sent to Cassandra Vail.

1997 TRI Data

For 1997, 21,490 facilities filed 71,670 TRI reporting forms. These facilities reported on- and off-site releases of 2.58 billion pounds of toxic chemicals, an increase of 56.1 million pounds from 1996. This increase appears to be due to a shift by a number of facilities from the recycling of metals to disposal. Despite this slight increase, EPA does believe that there will continue to be decreases in environmental releases over the long term. Releases decreased about 43 percent between 1988 and 1997.

Air emissions for 1997 totaled 1.33 billion pounds, or almost 52 percent of all releases in 1997. Emissions to water totaled 218.4 million pounds, or 8.5 percent of all releases. Emissions to land on-site accounted for 13.5 percent of releases, and transfers off-site for disposal accounted for about 18 percent of all releases. Under-ground injection accounted for 8.5 percent of all releases.

Total quantities of reported production-related wastes increased 8.3 percent or 1.54 billion pounds (after three facility revisions are considered) from 18.44 billion pounds in 1991 to 19.98 billion pounds in 1997. This includes the toxic chemicals that were recycled, burned for energy recovery, treated, or released as described above. The net increase from 1991 to 1997 appears to be driven by an increase in recycling (increase of 18.3 percent) and treatment (increase of 20.4 percent). For more information, contact **Michelle Price, (202) 260-3372**.

EPA Requests Comment on Renewal of the TRI Form R Information Collection Request

Office of Management and Budget approval of the TRI Form R expires April 20, 2000. To begin the process of renewing OMB approval of the Form R, EPA prepared an FR notice requesting comment on the renewal Information Collection Request for OMB. The FR notice was published on July 28, 1999. We are proposing that the form remain essentially the same except for two items: 1) we are proposing to add the term "primary" in the first SIC code box to indicate that a facility's primary SIC code be entered there, and 2) we are proposing to add a column to Sec. 7A to ask how many individual waste streams the data apply to so information does not need to be duplicated if the individual waste streams are the same. The FR notice and the supporting statement can be accessed in the "What's New" section of the TRI website. The comment period closes September 27, 1999. For more information, contact **Amy Newman, (202) 260-1846**.

NACEPT Toxics Data Reporting Committee Completes its Work

Following the industry expansion rule, EPA committed to conducting an intensive dialogue with stakeholders regarding ways to improve TRI reporting and to reduce the burden of reporting. As part of that commitment, OPPT formed an advisory committee under the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) to advise the Agency on those issues. The committee met eight times between September 1997 and October 1998 and submitted a report to the Agency in May 1999. The committee report summarizes its work and recommendations in three areas: burden reduction, revisions to Form R, and data release. The Agency also held seven public meetings around the country in late 1997 and 1998 to obtain public comment on these same issues. For more information, access the website at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri or contact **Amy Newman**, (202) 260-1846.

About the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) System

For years, the EPCRA reporting center has distributed TRI data through several means to support many different types of users. Users have had online access to TRI data through the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Toxnet system, the Right-to-Know Network's (RTK) database operated by Unison Institute, and for a more limited audience, EPA's Mainframe system (TRIS). The programming language used to support these varied sources was generally inefficient in allowing changes to the TRI file structure--changes that have been necessary from time to time to incorporate the program's growth. The code supporting the TRIS Mainframe programs was also out of compliance with Y2K. For these reasons, the EPA has decided to change the manner in which these data will be made available to on-line users and in so doing is working to develop a tool that is more powerful and easier to use, satisfying the majority of needs from the larger user community. To accomplish this, EPA has directed the conversion of its older programs to Oracle. In making this conversion, EPA has had to shift its resources. EPA no longer supports the TRIS Mainframe system which will be removed in the near future, and the NLM system will only offer TRI data for the reporting years 1995 onward.

During the first week of April, 1999, the EPCRA reporting center has successfully migrated the old TRIS Adabase and Clipper systems to Oracle. This is the first system which will post the TRI data on the Internet/Intranet. EPA decided to use the Envirofacts Data

Warehouse web site to post TRI data since the site is being used widely by the public.

Here are the highlight events on Envirofacts:

The Envirofacts team is currently working on the "query" conversions from TRIS to TRIM. This process will be complete by the end of September, 1999. In the interim, the 1987 - 1997 TRI reporting year data will be available on both Internet and Intranet web sites. The URLs for these 2 web sites are : "<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>" & "<http://intranet.epa.gov/enviro>". Once the "query" conversion is complete, the 1998 TRI reporting year data will be available for viewing on the Intranet web site.

In addition, the Environmental Assistance Division / Toxic Release Inventory Branch has been working closely with the Envirofacts team to develop a user-friendly data analysis tool. This tool will become available by the end of 1999.

We will continue to improve the TRI web site and will focus on the user's immediate needs. If you have any ideas, suggestions and concerns about the TRI web site and tools, please feel free to contact, **Chi Tran at (202) 260-0644 or Email to "tran.chi@epa.gov"**.

REGION 10 OUTREACH EFFORTS

Earth Day Demo of the Toxics Release Inventory Display System (*TRIDS*)

On Earth Day, April 22, 1999, Region 10 staff demonstrated *TRIDS*, an easy to use, graphical display of toxic chemical releases reported under the Toxics Release Inventory. As part of the GSA Earth Day celebration, staff helped individuals use *TRIDS* to learn about local facilities and chemicals released to the air, land, and water in their communities. Feedback on the software, developed by Washington Department of Ecology with funding from EPA Region 10, was positive. For more information, contact **Kristin Andersen, (206) 553-0244**.

Teach with Databases: Toxics Release Inventory Package on Loan to Educators

Region 10 staff contacted teachers and science education specialists throughout the four-state region to invite them to pilot the Teach with Databases: Toxics Release Inventory teaching package. Eleven teachers responded, wishing to pilot the package in schools located throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Packages were sent out on loan to teachers along with an educational supplement titled "Surf the Web to Find Out About Toxic

Chemicals in Your Community". The package, designed by the National Science Teachers Association with funding from EPA, provides teachers and students with a community-based context for chemistry, biology, and environmental science classes. The educational supplement, developed by Region 10 staff, allows teachers to access easy-to-use web sites for information on local chemical releases to the environment. Copies of the package are available for loan through the EPA Region 10 Public Environmental Resources Center (PERC) at 1-800-424-4EPA. For more information, contact **Kristin Andersen, (206) 553-0244**.

Teach with Databases: Toxics Release Inventory

Seattle Central Community College Pilot - February 23, 199. Region 10 staff worked with a Seattle Central Community College environmental science class to access and use information about toxic chemical releases into the local environment. During a brief presentation, the class of 25 students learned about the creation of the Toxics Release Inventory program and the concept of community right-to-know. Then the class went on-line and accessed several web sites that provided a user-friendly look at chemical releases in the Puget Sound area. The students looked up local facilities on-line to see what chemicals were being released to the air, land, and water and in what quantities. Specifically, Region 10 staff talked the students through a series of key strokes prepared in advance to highlight a well-known local facility and a major chemical released by that facility.

As an exercise, the students completed an activity which involved reporting on the health hazards and exposure limits of a specific toxic chemical released by local facilities. The activity was designed by the course instructor, based on Activity 2.2 in the Teach with Databases: Toxics Release Inventory package. Total time for the pilot was approximately 1 ½ hours, including ½ hour of presentation and question/answer time followed by one hour of online surfing and activity time.

Overall the pilot was extremely successful. The presentation and online activity generated many questions from students about TRI data and the TRI program. Several students were so interested in certain facility releases that they decided to use the TRI data as a basis for a course research project due later in the quarter. Based on the students' enthusiasm, the course instructor invited the Region 10 staff to return and teach the TRI module to the spring quarter class on June 2-3, 1999.

Region 10 staff are planning to enhance the pilot for "round two" to incorporate a more advanced activity from the Teach with Databases package. In addition, staff hope

to expand the pilot to other community colleges and high schools in the area. For more information, contact **Kristin Andersen, (206) 553-0244**.

REGION 5 OUTREACH EFFORTS

Environmental Outreach to Children

As a result of an earlier Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) outreach to C.E. Hughes Elementary School, eighty science students of that school participated in a workshop called "MAKING YOUTH AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS," held in the EPA Region 5 Office. The TRI Program coordinated the event and made four presentations during the event.

The students were provided with background information on environmental issues. Mr. Robert Springer, Division Director, expounded on an article regarding Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic Substances (PBTs). The TRI team discussed the TRI information and conducted "hands-on" instructions on accessing TRI data using the information superhighway - the Internet. The Lead /Asbestos Team, gave an overview on how EPA gets involved with toxic substances. The Asbestos emphasis was on chemical composition of asbestos fibers, how they are released, and how we should deal with it. The Pesticides presenter showed the students how to identify the EPA registered name and number on household products containing pesticides. Mrs. Phyllis Reed, Chief of the Pesticides and Toxics Branch gave the wrap-up and awarded each student with a Certificate of Participation. For more information, contact **Jonnie M. Wilson, 312-886-4759** or **Orest Ruszczyzky, 312-886-0194**

TRI Community Outreach

The Community Services Committee of Church Women United (CWUI) in Illinois, invited Jonnie M. Wilson to act as a panelist at the 62nd CWUI State Assembly, held in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) - It's Your Right-To-Know information was discussed along with other projects, such as the Immigration Project, The Farm Worker Advocacy (a Southern Illinois project) and Hope for The Children. Jonnie distributed Information regarding the use and access to the TRI data. For more information, contact **Jonnie M. Wilson, 312-886-4759**.

TRI Presentation to Northwest Indiana Teachers

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Team conducted two workshops during the Northwest Indiana's "Professional Development Day for Teachers of School-City of East Chicago, Indiana."

The “Staff Development Committee” and Dr. Martha Harris, Director of Secondary Education expressed interest in the curriculum, TEACHING WITH DATA-BASES USING TRI and also asked us to address their concerns about “quality of life” in a highly industrialized environment such as theirs.

The TRI Team explained the Section 313 provisions of the EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT. We demonstrated how to access the TRI data through the Internet, explained the limitations and uses of the data and showed examples on how the data can be used to address community concerns. Finally, the TRI team explained to the teachers the environmental curriculum package, so they could integrate environmental lessons into the courses they handle. For more information contact, **Orest Ruszczycky, 312-886-0194 or Jonnie Wilson, 312-886-4759**

Outreach to Children: The La Grange/Highland Elementary School La Grange, IL

With the help of 105 students and four teachers from the La Grange/Highland Elementary School, Sun Fish Sam found out why he could not exist in the Des Plaines River.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Team introduced Sun Fish Sam to the children. Then, the Team made the children aware of Sun Fish Sam’s inability to live in the Des Plaines River. They were invited to help identify the causes of Sun Fish Sam’s problems by using the TRI data. The TRI Team deputized the students as water detectives. The water detectives were shown how to access and interpret the data in the Internet. Using the data, the students identified several suspect industries as probable sources of pollution that could distress Sun Fish Sam. Upon completion of the investigation, each student was given information packets for future references in using TRI. The teachers were also given teachers’ information packets. For more information contact, **Jonnie M. Wilson, 312-886-4759 or Orest Ruszczycky, 312-886-0194.**

TRI Outreach with support of Lead and Asbestos Section: Will County Forest Preserve District - Earth Fair’99

The Plum Creek Pavilion, was the site of Earth Fair ‘99, “Taking an Inside Look at Being Outside.” Twenty environmental organizations had booths, one of which was the Toxics Section’s. The Toxics Program Section’s booth had posters calling attention to EPCRA/ TRI and LEAD/ASBESTOS. Attendees to the fair were given literature on protecting children from lead poisoning, tips

on home remodeling and renovation where lead is present, activity books on Radon and Asbestos, and TRI. Attendees were relieved to know there were public contacts at industries in their communities where their concerns regarding emissions to air, land and water can be answered. Our exhibit reached approximately 200 families. For more information contact, **Jonnie M. Wilson, 312-886-4759 or Orest Ruszczycky, 312-886-0194.**

Hotline Numbers

RCRA/Superfund 1-800-424-9346	EPCRA Hotline 1-800-424-9346	TSCA Assistance 202-554-1404
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Library Corner

Guidance Documents

EPA has recently published several guidance documents to assist industries in understanding their compliance responsibilities under EPCRA section 313. Specifically, EPA published the 1998 "EPCRA Section 313 Questions and Answers" document, an expanded and updated version of the 1997 EPCRA Section 313 Questions and Answers document. EPA has also made available a Questions and Answers crosswalks document that lists the source of the question and answer and a description of any revisions to the original. Another document EPA recently published is the "Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Reporting Forms and Instructions: Revised 1998 Version Crosswalks Document" which outlines clarifications made to the 1998 instructions package. In addition to these documents, EPA has recently updated several industry-specific guidance documents. These documents include:

- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for Metal Mining Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-001);
- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for Coal Mining Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-002);

- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for Electricity Generating Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-003);
- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for RCRA Subtitle C TSD Facilities and Solvent Recovery Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-004);
- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for Chemical Distribution Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-005);
- "Section 313 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act Guidance Document for Petroleum Bulk Facilities," (EPA 745-B-99-006); and
- "EPCRA Section 313 Reporting Guidance for Semiconductor Manufacturing," (EPA 745-R-99-007).

In addition, EPA is in the process of updating all of the older industry guidance documents over the coming year. Over the next few months, EPA will be publishing one for the rubber and plastics manufacturing industry and another for textile manufacturing.

Meeting and Conferences

Right-To-Know Conference and Exhibition

As we approach the new millennium the ability to communicate environmental data and issues will become even more pressing as a result of increasing public concern, sophistication and technology. To help you meet this challenge NEHA, in collaboration with the USEPA, state and local governments, environmental groups and industry, is proud to present the 1999 Right-to-Know (RTK) Conference and Exhibition. The RTK Conference and Exhibition includes the latest information on right-to-know issues including the new Chemical Right-to-Know Program.

You are guaranteed to find the education and networking you want and need at this exciting and dynamic event. After attending this conference we know you will return to your work place and community equipped to meet the

many right-to-know and environmental information challenges that await you. See you in the Mile High City! Conference dates are October 25-28, 1999 at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center, Denver CO, 1-800-233-1234. For the latest RTK Conference and Exhibition informat please access fax-on-demand document #259 by calling 303-756-9090 and selecting or revisit our website <http://www.neha.org/epa.html>.

TRI National Meeting

Mark your calendars. EPA is planning the annual TRI National Meeting for early June 2000 in Baltimore, MD. For more information contact, **Marilyn Franklin, 202-260-0163**.

EPCRA 313 Regional Contacts

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STATUS OF EPCRA SECTION 313 PETITIONS AND RELATED ACTIONS (08-23-99)

Chemical:	Acetonitrile
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Denial issued 3/5/99 (64 FR 10597).
Chemical:	Alloys - Chromium, Nickel, and Copper in Alloys
Action Requested:	Modification to exclude these metals in certain types or sizes of alloys
Status:	Response anticipated in the spring of 2000 at the earliest.
Chemical:	Chromium Antimony Titanate (CAT) [C.I. Pigment Brown 24]
Action Requested:	Delist (from the chromium and antimony compound categories)
Status:	Under Review: Day 180 - May 21, 1999.
Chemical:	Chromite ore
Action Requested:	Delist (from chromium compounds category)
Status:	Proposal to Grant published (2/23/99, 64 FR 8774, 60 day comment period), final action expected before July 1, 2000.
Chemical:	Deferred chemicals (from the 1994 chemical expansion rule.)
Action:	List
Status:	Under review. Federal Register notice expected sometime in 2000 at the earliest.
Chemical:	2,2-Dibromo-3-nitrilopropionamide (DBNPA)
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Administrative Stay and request for comment on petition issued (60 FR 54949, 10-27-95); Final response anticipated in the fall of 1999.
Chemical:	Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Review suspended at petitioners request
Chemical:	Dioxin and dioxin-like compounds
Action Requested:	List and lower reporting thresholds for these chemicals
Status:	Proposed Rule issued (62 FR 24887, 05-07-97); Comment period ended Sept. 5, 1997. EPA is reviewing the over 400 comments received. Federal Register notice proposing a reporting threshold of 0.1 gram issued on 1/5/99 (64 FR 688). Final addition would happen concurrent with the finalization of lower reporting thresholds in the fall of 1999.
Chemical:	Hydrogen sulfide and methyl mercaptan
Action Requested:	Deletion (Administrative Stay Request)
Status:	Administrative Stay and request for comment issued (59 FR 43048, 08-22-94). EPA is conducting a reassessment of these two chemicals. It is anticipated that another Federal Register notice will be issued in the spring of 2000 at the earliest.
Chemical:	Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Denial published in the Federal Register on 3/30/98 (63 FR 15195).
Chemical:	Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK)
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Denial published in the Federal Register on 2/23/99 (64 FR 8769).
Chemical:	Phosphoric acid
Action Requested:	Delist
Status:	Denial issued 1/23/98 (63 FR 3566).